



## The climate gap: Environmental health and equity implications of climate change and mitigation policies in California-a review of the literature

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### Abstract:

Climate change is an issue of great importance for human rights, public health, and socioeconomic equity because of its diverse consequences overall as well as its disproportionate impact on vulnerable and socially marginalized populations. Vulnerability to climate change is determined by a community's ability to anticipate, cope with, resist, and recover from the impact of major weather events. Climate change will affect industrial and agricultural sectors, as well as transportation, health, and energy infrastructure. These shifts will have significant health and economic consequences for diverse communities throughout California. Without proactive policies to address these equity concerns, climate change will likely reinforce and amplify current as well as future socioeconomic disparities, leaving low-income, minority, and politically marginalized groups with fewer economic opportunities and more environmental and health burdens. This review explores the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups in California and investigates the costs and benefits of the climate change mitigation strategies specified for implementation in the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32). Lastly, knowledge gaps, future research priorities, and policy implications are identified.

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### Resource Description

#### Climate Scenario :

specification of climate scenario (set of assumptions about future states related to climate)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES), Other Climate Scenario

**Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) Scenario:** SRES A1, SRES B1

**Other Climate Scenario:** A1fi

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;  
surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Policymaker, Researcher

## **Exposure :**

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Temperature

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

## **Geographic Feature:**

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Urban

## **Geographic Location:**

resource focuses on specific location

United States

## **Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):**

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury

## **Intervention:**

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

## **Model/Methodology:**

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Outcome Change Prediction

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

## **Population of Concern:**

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

**Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup:** People of color

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)

**Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:** ☒

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content